

APPROVED MINUTES
PINE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Drews, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

PRESENT: William Drews, Supervisor; Marla Sprague, Clerk; Misty VanGessel, Treasurer; Darcy Krause, Trustee;
Rodney Palmer, Trustee

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Julie Drews, Deputy Supervisor; Barbara Kaaikala, Deputy Clerk; Steve Buchholz, Zoning Administrator

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Palmer moved, supported by VanGessel, to approve the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 11, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

VanGessel moved, supported by Krause, to approve the minutes as written.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

- **Treasurer/Financial Reports/Bank Update (on file)**

Treasurer report was provided. Drews requested that the funds in the Fire District account be paid to the District. Sprague and VanGessel will make that payment.

Palmer moved, supported by Krause, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Zoning Administrator Report – Steve Buchholz, Zoning Administrator**

6 zoning permits were issued and 1 land combination application was received in August. \$210.00 in receipts was turned in.

The owner of the condemned cabin on Moore Lake intends to hire someone to tear the cabin down.

The board will not act on the Johnson Rd/Stanton Rd billboard frame until the owner returns from the military in two months.

Jeremy Tiffany expressed concern that a 15,000-chicken barn is planned for one side of his home in Pine Township and a second one on the other side of his house in Cato Township. He is concerned that this operation may be commercial rather than the agricultural use that the property is zoned for. He is also concerned about potential drainage issues into his yard.

VanGessel moved, supported by Krause, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Road Report – Bill Drews, Township Supervisor**

Topcoats were sprayed on Johnson Road between Stanton Road and Briggs Road, and on Cannonsville Rd between Gravel Ridge and Johnson Rd.

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Fire District Report – Bill Drews, Township Supervisor**

11 runs in August, none being in Pine Township.

Training was pump ops and hydrant ops. There are 5 recruits who will attend the training academy.

Sprague moved, supported by VanGessel, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Cemetery Report – Marla Sprague, Township Clerk**

1 burial in Riverside Cemetery in August; none in West Pine Cemetery.

Sprague will meet with the Montcalm Township clerk to view that township's cemetery software.

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Library Board Report (Jamie Gorby/Jeremy Korpai) - No representative present**

- **Supervisor Report – Bill Drews**

Reported on the storm water meeting

Investigated the reason for water being pumped from the creek on Briggs Road

Considered potential wetlands violation/possible creation of additional gravesites in Riverside Cemetery

Will check with Zoning Board of Appeals and MTA about the zoning map.

Optic Edge sign company is out of business. Will seek options for maintenance of the Township sign.

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Clerk Report – Marla Sprague**

Will meet with Montcalm Township clerk to view that township's cemetery software.

Pine Township does not have an election in November.

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Planning Commission Update – Darcy Krause**

The master plan will be discussed at the October meeting.

A public hearing was held at 5:00 PM today to consider a request by Joshua Singleton for a special land use permit for the operation of a 20-acre gravel pit near the corner of Stanton Road and M-91. The PC voted to send the request, with specific amendments and stipulations, to the Board for approval.

Krause moved, supported by VanGessel, to approve the planning commission recommendation to grant a special land use permit to Joshua Singleton for the operation of a gravel pit on approximately 20 acres of property near the intersection of M-91 and Stanton Road, amended from the initial request to include being 300' from river edge, dust control, crushed asphalt drive from road to the gravel pit, pine trees or berm, driveway permits with culverts, and safety signage on Stanton Road.

Roll call vote: Yes – Palmer, VanGessel, Krause, Sprague, Drews. No – None

MOTION CARRIED

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

- **Spring Lake, Lot #1 Update**

The process is at the stage of Orlebeke law firm perfecting the Quit Claim Deed wording.

Sprague moved, supported by VanGessel, to approve the update.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Tree removal in Riverside Cemetery will take place in October**

- **West Pine Cemetery Pump – progress update**

Drews will meet with Jordan Selesky to work on the pump enclosure.

VanGessel moved, supported by Krause, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

- **Tacoma Lake Public Hearing Date**

VanGessel moved, supported by Sprague, to send the proposed special assessment wording to the Township attorney for review, pending approval and to set a tentative public hearing date of October 7, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.

Roll call vote: Yes – Drews, VanGessel, Krause, Palmer, Sprague No – None

MOTION CARRIED

PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to pay checks 4239 – 4267 (checks 4267 & 4268 being void) for monthly bills in the amount of \$27,679.89.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dawn Sweet – likes the sense of community at meetings, asked Board to post public hearing dates and meeting dates on website, 5 Corners intersection needs to be addressed due to the number of serious accidents that have taken and continue to take place there

Brian Buysse – owns cottage on Tacoma Lake, appreciates the Board's openness to community issues

Laurie Johnson – could Riverside cemetery trees being removed be chipped for use on the trail (Yes), could a less expensive option be found to record cemetery records

James Hohler – Revise (website development company) rep states that township websites must be ADA compliant by 2027

BOARD FINAL COMMENTS

Palmer – comment on cemetery software and on private road

ADJOURNMENT

VanGessel moved, supported by Sprague, to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Sprague
Pine Township Clerk

Minutes typed by Barbara Kaaikala